

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8 and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claim 9 is amended to correspond with some of the features recited in allowed claim 8. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance by making method claim 9 consistent with corresponding features recited in allowed apparatus claim 8; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 3, 5 and 8 are allowed. Applicant submits that claim 9 also is allowable for the reasons discussed below.

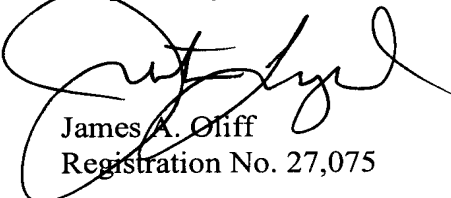
The Office Action rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Tashiro et al. (Tashiro), U.S. Patent No. 6,622,480. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action indicates that Applicant's arguments filed in the June 13, 2008 Amendment are not persuasive with respect to claim 9 because claim 9 does not recite the feature of "the predetermined time period". Therefore, to be consistent with allowed claim 8, claim 9 is amended to recite: "a predetermined time period". Therefore, independent claim 9, like allowed claim 8, is patentable over Tashiro. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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